

Mansfield Public Schools

Board of Education Update

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Superintendent of Schools

Issue #18

December 2009

Information regarding the current status of the Mansfield Public Schools: items, issues, challenges, and opportunities district staff addressed during the month, as well as upcoming district and school events.

Enrollment

Gr.	GW		SE		VN		MMS		Total
		+/-*		+/-*		+/-*		+/-*	
PK	31	5/0	30	2/2	31	1/1			92
K	31	0/0	30	4/2	53	1/1			115
1	37	2/1	43	0/0	34	1/0			114
2	35	1/0	41	1/1	53	0/1			130
3	32	0/0	49	2/3	50	1/1			132
4	34	1/1	48	0/0	50	1/0	1		133
PK-4									716
5							135	1/1	135
6							147	2/1	147
7							144	2/1	144
8							141	2/0	141
# Boys	111		124		145		292		672
# Girls	89		117		126		276		608
Total	200	9/2	241	9/8	271	5/4	568	6/2	1280

*Entries/Withdrawals

- Home-school year to date total: 7 families with 11 students.

	GW	SE	VN	MMS	District
Immigrant Children*	5	3	1	2	11
ELL**	2	3	3	8	16

*Eligible immigrant children are defined as a) ages 3-21 enrolled full-time in school, b) not born in any state, c) have not been attending 1 or more schools in 1 or more states for more than 3 full academic years.

**English Language Learners

Connecticut Mastery Test – Fourth Generation Results

#/% of students at/above goal – March 2009

Grade	Math	Writing	Reading	Science
3 – 133	113/85.0%	86/72.2%	98/73.7%	-----
4 – 124	100/83.3%	92/74.2%	91/75.8%	-----
5 – 137	97/71.3%	99/72.3%	101/73.7%	110/80.3%
6 – 141	113/80.1%	109/77.9%	120/85.7%	-----
7 – 136	105/78.4%	110/80.9%	116/87.2%	-----
8 – 160	131/81.9%	139/86.9%	138/86.8%	142/88.8%

- Students not reaching goal in one or more areas: (2009-2010 grade)

Gr. 4 – 47/35.3%	Gr. 7 – 44/31.2%
Gr. 5 – 49/39.5%	Gr. 8 – 40/29.2%
Gr. 6 – 63/46.0%	Gr. 9 – 42/26.0%

Budget

- Food Service Comparison:

Sept.-Dec., 2008		Sept.-Dec., 2009	
Paid Meals	Total Meals	Paid Meals	Total Meals*
42,337	59,986	34,702	58,175

* May be due to increase in student absence year to date.

- Attended municipal budget meeting at E.O. Smith.
- Attended meeting with Mayor, Town Manager, Finance Director and Board Chair regarding 10-11 budget.

Personnel

	Certified	Non-Certified
Retirements	0	0
Resignations	0	0
Requests for Leave	2	0
New Hires	0	1
Reduction in Force	0	0

- Provided information regarding the inclusion of Mansfield Community Center custodians into the bargaining unit.
- Conducted District AYP meeting.

District: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Including Instructional Technology Applications

- Conducted one administrative council meeting.
- Continued Study Island software program for all district grade 3 and 4 students to use both at school and at home.
- Facilitated a year two implementation plan for *Bridges in Mathematics*.
- Facilitated the plan for implementing Houghton Mifflin: *Legacy of Literacy*.
- Implemented a plan for in-class preschool music.
- Implemented district review and use of CBAS (CT Benchmark Assessment System) for grades 3-8 in Math & Reading.
- Initiated MyRTI assessment.
- Facilitated initial council meetings with consultants hired to review art, music, and social studies curriculum.

Policies

- Continued to implement MBOE Policies reflecting recent changes in legislature drafted by Shipman & Goodwin.

Building and Grounds

- Continued to implement an alternative work order system.
- Attended MMS Fuel Conversion weekly meetings regarding project implementation.
- Participated in Building Committee meeting to develop information on Four Schools Renovation Project.
- Presented information on Four Schools Renovation Project to joint meeting of Town Council and Mansfield Board of Education.

Programs

Liberty Bank Grant – Study Island Through December 26, 2009

Grade 3				Grade 4			
Math		Reading		Math		Reading	
Q*	% Correct	Q*	% Correct	Q*	% Correct	Q*	% Correct
27,503	82.8	10,716	70.5	12,515	86.3	11,108	73.6

*Number of questions attempted on grade level

Security

- Continued the implementation of new required crisis prevention drills for all schools with emergency management officials.

Energy

- Implemented school building energy committees.
- Implemented guidelines for after school building use in an effort to reduce energy consumption.
- Reduced hall lighting in hallways in all 4 schools and some classrooms at MMS.
- Monitored use of energy efficient refrigerators to replace classroom use of small refrigerators.

Communication

- Directed dissemination of H1N1 vaccination clinics information via school “kid-mail.”
- Mailed Dorothy Goodwin Bequest Fund award letters and follow-up phone call to offer help and answer questions.
- Mailed Dorothy Goodwin Bequest Fund letters to applicants not awarded funds.
- Conducted monthly meetings with bargaining unit leaders.
- Facilitated district Technology Committee meeting via video conference.
- Held monthly meeting with Town Manager.
- Distributed AlertNow letter via school QNotify and “kid-mail.”
- Held 8 Community Conversation sessions.
- Facilitated Professional Development Committee meeting.
- Attended Region 19 Regionalization Ad Hoc committee meeting.
- Attended Region 19 Special Education Directors and Superintendents meeting.
- Held meeting with Youth Services Department.

Professional Development

- Facilitated Literacy How training for K-2 teachers and support services staff.
- Facilitated Math Progress Monitoring training.

Technology Administrative Applications

- Continued implementation of HealthOffice Software.
- Continued implementation of HealthOffice Software.
- Continued implementation of automated system for recording substitutes.
- Continued spread sheet submission of language arts assessments.
- Continued review of Horizon library system software.
- Supported training and development of PowerSchool software at MMS and Filemaker Pro/EASTCONN RTI software.
- Implemented new PowerSchool cafeteria software in all four schools.
- Initiated implementation of MyRTI software program

Other

- Attended MAC (Mansfield Advocates for Children) meeting.
- Attended EASTCONN AYP District Plan meeting.
- Attended EASTCONN Race to the Top (RTTT) meeting.
- Attended URSA and Tri-Town Superintendents' meetings.
- Attended NASA/URSA Legislative Breakfast Meeting.
- Attended *Leadership* Strategies for SRBI Success.
- Attended CREC Global Achievement Gap.
- Attended Proven Arbitration Strategies Workshop.
- Attended School Facility Conference.
- Attended New Standards for Reading & Success Workshop.
- Attended CREC Treatment Protocols for Math Intervention at the Elementary Level.

Additional information will be provided upon request by calling 429.3350 or by emailing mboesupt@mansfieldct.org.

Mansfield Public Schools Monthly Memorable Moments

Goodwin School

- Trestle Tree, a favorite physical education unit, came to an end on December 23. Throughout this unit, students have gained strength and agility as they've maneuvered along rope bridges, zip lines, and climbing equipment. It's easy to see how excited students are about this unit. Each morning, their noses are pressed against the windows of the gym doors to see what Mr. Dean has added to the Trestle Tree for the day!
- As a special holiday treat, Goodwin students were treated to the wonderful storytelling of Gail Herman. Dr. Herman is a frequent presenter at Confratute and just happened to be in Connecticut for the holidays. She found time to share stories with each grade level as a December 23 surprise!

Southeast School

- On Tuesday, December 8th at 7:00PM, our 3rd and 4th graders performed the musical "Music and Me". In the musical the students celebrate the fundamental elements of music (melody, rhythm, harmony, form, tone and expression). Approximately three hundred parents, family, friends and staff were among those in attendance.
- Recently, five of our Southeast fourth graders (Brooke Hawthorne, Sarah Sommer, Brandon Koehler, Katie Cranmer and Emma Powers) along with two of our 5th Year UConn Interns (Katie DeVinney and Caitlyn Hardy) were given a unique opportunity to be interviewed and recorded at the CPTV 14 studio for a show called "Education Matters". These students were able to speak about the history of our Green Thumbs Club, recycling process and composting program. The show was taped last Friday and will be aired on: December 15th at 4pm, December 17th at 6pm, December 19th at 10 am.
- Two events take place this month as part of our Character Education program highlighting this month's character trait – *Caring*. *The Giving Tree* is put up in our office for children, their families and our staff to decorate with mittens, scarves and hats for local families in need. The children really enjoy seeing the tree fill up and knowing that they have helped keep someone else warm during the cold winter months. *Adopt-a-Family* program is sponsored through WAIM. Southeast has sponsored five anonymous families who have a need for holiday gifts as well as dinner baskets or gift cards to grocery stores. We created a Caring for Our Community bulletin board in the main hallway of our school in which each of five trees have been assigned to a grade level and represents a sponsored family in need of holiday cheer. Snowflakes on each tree contain gift suggestions for each member of the family.

Vinton School

- On Tuesday, December 8th, the Vinton choirs presented a "Winter Concert" for their classmates, friends, and families. The Junior Choir, made up of gr.1 & 2 students, sang a variety of holiday songs from around the world. They enjoyed the challenge of singing in other languages. They especially enjoyed the song from Russia that explained how 'Deuska Moroz' (Grandfather Frost) brings gifts to Russian children on New Year's Day. The Vinton Singers, gr. 3 & 4 students, performed songs that included a New Year's song students in Japan sing each year (in Japanese of course), Carol of the Bells accompanied on tone chimes, and two partner songs –an Israeli folk song, and a traditional American spiritual. The Vinton Choirs rehearse during recess time with 89 students participating this year.

Vinton School continued

- The kindergarten classes visited the Mansfield Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation to bring holiday cheer. Children sang three songs—Dreidel, Rudolph, and Jingle Bells with reindeer antlers to adorn their crowns & jingle bells to accompany their angelic voices. The children gave two outstanding and well received performances & then passed out homemade holiday cards.
- The grade 3 Animal Expo was a wonderful success! Each student had the opportunity to research an animal from one of three different habitats; rainforest, desert, and ocean. The students read, highlighted, and recorded information which they later used to write their research paper using topic sentences and supporting details. Their science backboards were eye catching, as well as filled with intriguing information. The animals created and painted by the students were dynamic and really made their research a reality for those lucky enough to stop in and visit!

Mansfield Middle School

- During December the MMS school counselors coordinated with the Mansfield Social Services Department to collect gifts and food for local families. Three families have received the donations collected by Grade 7 students and families, and by the MMS staff.
- We filled the auditorium for three evening concerts and for two in-school concert assemblies by the MMS Bands, Orchestra and Choruses. Mr. John Hart's first MMS band concert was delayed by a few days due to the snow day on December 16th. Students at all three concerts impressed their audiences with their preparation, hard work, and polished performances.
- For students who want to work on their homework right after school, we have begun a Homework Club supervised by a teacher each day and where students can have a snack while they work on assignments. The Homework Club has become a surprisingly popular activity, with over 15 students staying to work most afternoons. Students choose to participate in Homework Club. This is its key distinction from our Homework Help activity, to which students are assigned by teachers because of overdue work.
- Sixth graders recently made holiday cards for local senior citizens. The cards were delivered during a special luncheon at the Mansfield Senior Center at which the MMS Chamber Choir performed. Sixth graders also made holiday cards for troops overseas and for local veterans.
- As part of their study of Europe during December, sixth grade students shared Power Point presentations using their research about culture, geography, customs, etc., focused on European countries of their choosing. Students then shared foods and artifacts from the countries they studied.

Upcoming Events in January:

Please join us at any/all of these events

GW	SE	VN
Town Meeting 1/12/10 1:15pm	School-wide Assembly 1/8/10	PTA Assembly 1/11/10
Grade 4 Ice Skating FT 1/20/10	Grade 4 Ice Skating FT 1/20/10	Geno's Reading Team at Gampel 1/16/10 9:00am
PTO Meeting 1/20/10 6:30pm	E.O. Smith Students Visit 1/21/10 11:15am	Grade 4 Ice Skating FT 1/20/10
		PTA Movie Night 1/22/10
MMS		
Gettysburg Jazz Concert 1/10 5:00pm	Mansfield K-12 String Fling 1/13/10 6:30pm	
District		
New Year Holiday - No School 1/1/10	Special Meeting/Executive Session 1/7/10 6:00pm	Martin Luther King Day – No School 1/18/10
Professional Development Day No School 1/19/10	MBOE Meeting 1/21/10 7:30pm Goodwin School	MBOE Meeting 1/28/10 7:30pm MMS